Kailua, Hawaii, Sand.ch Islands, Nov. 10th 1835

Dear Brethren

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the reception of your two letters by the hand of Br. W. Bowdley, the one to Brethn Gulick of 1832 and the other of 1834 addressed to myself. In regard to the style and subjects of both these letters, they are just such as we could wish them to be, and when read in general meeting, did not fail to interest every one present.

Your letter to Br. Gulick should have been answered a year ago, but illness prevented him, and no substitute being appointed by the mission, it was omitted. I trust however, it will prove no hindrance to the regular annual letter on your part, which we are solicitous should be continued.

We are now the largest protestant mission in the world, who are accustomed to meet annually for the the transaction of business. All tho we occupy but a small portion of the great missionary field, yet we are scattered over an extent of more than 300 miles, and do not see each others faces except at general meeting, which usually lasts a month or more before we can all return to our several ports. At these meetings, every thing which relates to our missionary labors and duties is discussed and decided upon, and by these principles we act. By these means, we secure to ourselves the advantage of a unity of purpose and action, which is more than a counterbalance for all our loss of time at general meeting. Among thirty individuals, each one exercising the right of private judgment as to his course of action, there would unavoidably exist opposite opinions and discordant action, which would produce much that is injurious to the general good. All the advantages of united effort would be lost, anarchy and dissension would be likely to ensue. I mention these facts for the benefit of such of our brethren as may hereafter go on missionary ground to labor for the conversion of the heathen. Let such remember the advantages of stated personal consultations with his brethren in the same field, and by no means forego such a privilege. Let them not be mere consultations & expressions

of opinion which are binding on nobody, but formal and recorded decisions, which shall be a law upon the whole community, otherwise his pains will be lost.

This plan of things was the result of providential circumstances which from the first made it necessary for us to come together as occasion required, and when we saw the advantages of our meetings, we agreed that they should be yearly. I know not however, that they will long continue their annual character, for as our system of operations becomes more and more organized, this may not be so necessary, and it is thought by some that to meet once in 2 years will be sufficient.

As a mission we have been thus far highly favored of the Lord. More than 16 years have we existed as an organized body, and three only of our number have died in the field. As a general fact, health has attended our residence in this enervating climate, notwithstanding there have been & still are some exceptions to this general truth. Mrs. Chapin and Mrs. Spaulding have been prostrate ever since they came among us, but their disorder was contracted on the passage out, perhaps at Rio-Janeiro where they touched.

We have also been thus far blessed with union. Discord has never sown its seeds among us. But we would not boast of this, knowing the pronness of human nature to strife, and that it is not of us but of the grace given us that we are what we are. Our trials have been principally from without, but have all been made in the end to redound to the advantage of the gospel. Even the defections in our churches, have taught both the missionaries and their converts a practical lesson which we all needed, to wit, a more entire and filial dependence upon the Divine Spirit for his blessing upon our labors. By the salutary discipline exercised upon the offenders, a large amount of good has accrued to the church; the standard of purity has been raised, and the dread of sin more fully felt. Most of those who have been subjects of discipline,

have been restored to the bosom of the church, after a long trial of their sincere penitence, and but few have been cut off as incorrigible.

The govt. of the islands has been more friendly for a year past than formerly to the interests of religion. No obstacles are now thrown in the way, from this quarter, to prevent the progress of morality. The king attends church on the sabbath when in town, (at Honolulu) is quite accessible to the missionaries, and gives his approbation to the objects of our enterprize. The heavy cloud which hung over our prospects a few years ago, appears to be gradually clearing away, and the Sun of Righteousness is again bursting forth upon us with his cheering and reviving beams. Religion is I think taking a deeper root than it has ever taken before. The stamp of piety in our converts appears more enlightened, and of a better cast, less mixed with their heathenish principles than formerly. The doctrines of grace are better understood, & more clearly embraced by them than before. In all our congregations there is a growing seriousness and a more regular attention to the word preached, than has been known for several years. The morning prayer meetings at nearly all the stations are well attended, and at some places great crowds fill the house. Converts from among the heathen are increasing in number, and at the island of Kauai there is a general awakening to the concerns of religion, beyond what has ever been seen before among them. Still there is much irregularity & immoral conduct among the infidel part of the nation. The lines of demarkation are drawing between the righteous and the wicked, are becoming more and more prominent. While the wickedness of the wicked is ripening him for ruin, the righteousness of the righteous is becoming more apparent, as he advances in the Christian life.

At the station of Kailua, where I have resided for the last twelve years, there has been a growing interest in religious things for more than a year past. During this time, 33 persons have been admitted to the church, one of whom is an American who has

resided here more than 20 years. I have seen the time when there was a greater noise made about religion, when the novelty of the thing brought immense multitudes to church on the sabbath, and many hundreds professed to have embraced the gospel, and for a long time together desired admission into the church, but who failing to give evidence of true conversion were not admitted. I have seen for several years our large chapel (now burnt down) filled with a congregation of 3000 or 4000, which is nearly double the no. of our present congregation. But though we have now less external appearance of prosperity, I am of opinion that true religion is taking deeper root in the hearts of this people at this present time than it has ever done at any previous time. But experience has taught us to speak with caution, even of present favorable appearances, lest some unforeseen event may blight our fondest hopes, and we be called to reap a harvest of disappointment. Faith however bids us hope, and for the present we desire to "thank God & take courage"

The fascination of novelty to this people has passed away, and with it the patronage of government, which to their eyes gave the religion a great external attraction; and with them many of the motives to self-deception have been removed. We were never advocates of governmental patronage any further than giving their approbation & protection; nor were we sorry to see it taken away after the death of Kaahumanu, although the cup of woe in some places was a matter of deep regret to us all. It proved the faith of some and the hypocrisy of others, and served to purge the church of several unworthy members. In the meantime knowledge increased, and when the season of declension had gone by, and order began again to assume its reign, the Spirit of the Lord returned among us, and we are now again rejoicing in the hope that he is about to establish his kingdom in the midst of us. But the joy of hope is not unmingled with much anxiety and care for the little flock under our inspection. They are mere babes in Christ, who to this

day need to be fed with milk rather than with the meat of the Divine word.

In order that you may form some idea of our operations, I will just note down a few statistics of marriages, schools, admissions to the church & the books printed during the ~~last~~ year ending June 1st, 1835. There were 1546 marriages performed by the missionaries, besides those done by the chiefs, of which we have no account. It is estimated that there are about 20,000 adults & children in the islands who have learned to read. There were 72 persons admitted to the church during the year. The whole no. of church members amounts to 864. Excommunicated last year, 6.

Of Printing: There was printed at the mission press last year, 989 pages of matter, mostly new & never before printed. This multiplied into editions of 5, 10 and 15,000 copies each, made 5,907,776 pages printed at our press in one year, at an expense of $3,206. The whole Bible except Leviticus and the Prophets is now translated. The N. T. is nearly reprinted from a thoroughly revised copy "diligently compared with the original Greek" of Knapp. It has cost us much labor, and a delay of two years, but we felt that a revised edition was called for, and if ever it was done it should be before another edition was printed. The liberality of the Am. Bib. Soc. will enable us to commence a third edition immediately after the second is through the press. The Old Testament has been printed in parts as far as translated, but a new revised edition is about to go to press at the beginning of the ensuing year. The other books printed during the year are principally translations of the best approved school books, such as Colburns Arithmetics, A first Book for children, adapted to Hawaiians, Natural History with cuts, a Geography (a compilation,) A Hymn Book with tunes, A Vocabulary of Hawaiian words with English definitions, An Almanac, and a Newspaper, for which about 3000 subscribers are obtained at all the stations. The latter work is published semi monthly in a quarto sheet, the nominal price is $1,00 annually, for which the missionaries principally contribute

the pieces to be printed. Several natives have also done something by way of contributions for the paper. It has not yet been a year in existence, and how long it may continue will depend upon circumstances.

Our old system of school instruction by the gratuitous aid of native schoolmasters is nearly run through, and in some parts of the islands is wholly given up. We are turning our attention of late years to efficient station schools, superintended & in great part taught by the missionaries themselves. These measures together with those of the High School, which is going on prosperously, under the instruction of Messrs Andrews, Black & Dibble, will we hope in time furnish a supply of competent teachers as well as evangelists for the nation. Thus, brethren, you have a brief view of our operations, which by the blessing of God we hope may be increased & continued, until these islanders shall become a Christian people, and take a stand among the nations of the earth. One thing is certain that if they are not speedily evangelized and civilized, they will soon become extinct. The same causes have been in operation & still exist tho in a less degree, which have been thinning off the American Indians for two centuries past. The influence of the white man when he comes in contact with the untutored children of nature, tends to their extermination. Drunkness and lewdness are two things which have already done more mischief in thinning their ranks, than all the exterminating wars which in former days they waged towards each other. Since the arrival of capt. Cook about 50 or 60 years ago, they have diminished perhaps two thirds, and this diminution still continues, with no other hope of its being arrested but by the influence of Religion.

There is one subject, Brethren, to which I wish to advert, relative to the churches in our native America, from among whom we came out. But what shall I say? For a few years past, we have been the pained but distant spectators of contests about what appears to us among the non-essentials of religion, but which threatens to stab the vitals ~~of religion~~ among you. We rejoiced to hear of the extensive revivals ~~of Religion~~ which some years ago were poured down upon your churches; and altho there were some things then done

which did not appear to be regular or perhaps judicious measures, (but upon that subject we do not sit in judgment,) yet this did not destroy our charity for the genuineness of the work. We could but rejoice, and we did rejoice. Even when we heard of the tendency of some revival men towards Arminianism, we were not so startled as to believe that heresy was sapping the foundations of the good old creed of the Genevan Reformer. But perhaps it will be said, that our post of observation is too far off to get distinct views. It may be so, but we are sufficiently near to hear the clangor of war, and the shout of battle. And is it so, Brethren? Is Satan thus to gain an advantage over you, and render null & void all the fruits of the late revivals? Will not such a contest growing out of revivals tend to bring them into disputes, & confirm the prejudices of the world against them? By it, the weapons of triumph are put into the hands of the enemy; the Spirit is grieved away, the kingdom of Christ is divided, and impenitent souls are made to stumble over your differences into perdition. O Brethren of the American Zion, remember your former love to each other, and do your first works. The hands which laid the foundations of your churches, laid them in love ~~& faith~~, strong well cemented by brotherly love. Those hands have long since rested from their labors, and have left a rich legacy unto their children; - Religious liberty, which no power on earth can control. If error is supposed to be creeping into the church, neither dissentions nor separations will ever put it down, but brotherly love will. Let those who fear for orthodoxy, labor more & pray more than those who are the objects of their dread, & then more souls will be converted by their instrumentality, and then too the spirit of brotherly love will revive, the influences from above will again return, and revivals will again spring up in every part of the land. But if dissentions are suffered to continue, we fear lest the very heathen, who by your contests will be forgotten and left to perish, will rise up in judgment & condemn your neg-

lest of their salvation. Bear with us brethren, for our full consolation and our interests identified with you and yours. How can bone of your bone & flesh of your flesh feel otherwise? How can the body suffer, and each member not sympathize with it? Yes brethren, we do sympathize, and when we kneel before the throne of Grace to pour out our hearts in prayer for the the universal extension of the kingdom of Christ, we do not forget to pray also for the peace & prosperity of our American Zion.

In behalf of the Mission
I remain dear Brethren
Yours in the Bonds of Gospel love
Artemas Bishop

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